

UUF Galveston Gazette



February 2009

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

502 Church Street, Galveston, Texas 77550-5502

(409)765-8330

Online at <http://uugalveston.org>

A Month of Sundays

Services and Children's Religious Education 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum 9am

February 1

Laura Emerson, "Bible 101 Continued: Leviticus"

Here is the next chapter in Laura's series of Biblical topics, from her inquiring perspective. The most widely cited verse Leviticus is used to condemn homosexuality, but since it is one of the most boring books in the Bible, few people know what the other thousands of verses say about the time and place, so long ago and far away, in which this book was written. If the rest of Leviticus were similarly applied to contemporary discourse, football wouldn't be an American pastime, fashion wouldn't be much of an industry, and agriculture wouldn't support as large a population. If you were to draft such a detailed book for UUs, what would it include? Laura Emerson was a religion and classics major at Duke University, and delivers services at liberal churches around the country. She is a member of Emerson UU Church in Houston.

Greeter: Madeleine Baker
Facilitator: Cheryl Henry

Board Member: John Hunger
Music: Margaret Canavan

February 8

Fanny DeGesero, "What's Love Got to Do with It?"

What comes first, love or justice? What changes us, transforms us as individuals: our minds or our hearts? And what changes the world? Fanny will read this sermon by UU minister Rev. Marti Keller. Fanny is a member of our Fellowship and an avid quilter and book lover.

Greeter: Vickie Francil
Facilitator: Bets Anderson

Board Member: Susan Persons
Music: Margaret Canavan

February 15

Christina Branum-Martin, "To Dwell Together in Peace"

The task of peacemaking is arduous for governments, communities and individuals. Gandhi said "Be the change you want to see in the world". Yet it takes practice to become the person we each aspire to be. Christina Branum-Martin, a seventh generation Unitarian, lives in Houston with her husband and eight-year-old daughter. She is a member of the Bay Area UU Church.

Greeter: Dorothy Treviño
Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Board Member: P. McGuffey
Music: Margaret Canavan

February 22 POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

Gerry Carr, "Rising from the Ashes"

Inspired by Elizabeth Lesser's book **Broken Open**, Gerry will share her personal story of how the difficult events of the past five months have been opportunities for spiritual and personal growth. Gerry is past president of the Fellowship and leads our Program Committee.

Greeter: Vickie Francil
Music: Margaret Canavan

Board Member: Cheryl Henry

President's Message

This month I thought I'd talk to you a bit about the current work of your board. First of all, Cheryl Henry was appointed to fill the at-large position vacated by Donnie Lee. Thank you, Cheryl, for agreeing to join us. And thank you Donnie for serving and good luck to you and Katrina in your move.

In April we will create a slate of positions to be filled for the next year; a president elect, 2 at-large positions, a secretary and a treasurer. Some current members may sign up again but it is also your opportunity to join. Let one of us know of your interest. John Hunger will become the new president and I will stay on as past president. Our fiscal year runs July to June so new board members would begin in July. We will also soon develop a budget for next year. The board member slate and the budget will be presented to the fellowship members in our annual meeting in May for your approval.

The board has a couple of new items on the agenda. One potential project is leasing space to the former UTMB child care center. Cheryl Henry, Madeleine Baker and I recently met with Georgia Strain, laid-off director of the UTMB child care center and Robert English, a scientist at UTMB and parent to explore the possibility. We walked through the space and visualized what it would entail to have children here. There are many hurdles to be addressed like insurance, minor modifications of space for safety and other logistics while keeping the use of building available for our usual activities.

But this idea is certainly in line with our desire to serve our community. The next step is for this group to submit a proposal to the board in time for the February 9th board meeting for consideration.

The aesthetics task force and landscape committee are considering ways to beautify our entrance. The landscape committee will do the planting. Construction bids are out for the board and then congregation to consider on a structure to conceal all the black pipes and wires on the

(President's Message continued on page 2)

Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its gift.

This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

(Continued from page 1)

south side of our entrance.

There is a more organized effort to meet the needs of our children in Religious Education. Stay tuned for more information about the RE program from Amanda Prather. And it is possible that if we do house the UTMB childcare, our child population would grow.

I recently sent five letters out to members we have not seen in awhile. Look for the update on them elsewhere in the newsletter as we receive their information.

There are six of us women from the congregation, Bets Anderson, Margaret Canavan, Madeleine Baker, Gerry Carr, Cheryl Henry and myself going to the International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women being held in Houston February 26 through March 1. I am imagining an inspiring and uplifting time.

Remember the board serves you. Let us know your ideas.

Peace,
Susan



Our microfinance "revolving" fund has made loans totaling \$1,775 available to recipients in developing countries, and we have donated \$77 to support the activities of Kiva. We will continue to make more loans as we receive donations and existing loans are repaid. All are welcome to help select loan recipients. Take a look at our current microfinance portfolio at

<http://www.kiva.org/lender/unitarianuniversalist3384>.



Reminders

- Please bring **clean plastic grocery bags** and small **plastic food containers with lids** for **Shirley Hollingsworth's** Saturday work to feed the homeless. Leave them in the box outside the Administrator office.
- Bring old (clean) socks and rags for **Judy Glaister** to use for cleaning on the *Elissa*.
- We can get reduced-price paper with your **used inkjet printer cartridges**.
- **Fair Trade Coffee and Tea** sales in our foyer benefit small coffee farmers & also our Social Action Committee.
- **For visitors & newcomers:** Our members receive the **UU World** magazine, & donate copies of past issues to share with you. Feel free to take copies from the display in the foyer.

Friendly Sunday morning "Greeters" are needed! Sign-up in the kitchen or contact Vickie Francil. Don't wait for Vickie to call you, go ahead & contact her or sign up in the kitchen! You know how wonderful it feels to be welcomed when you enter the Fellowship, so go ahead and plan to offer that warm welcome to others.

2008-2009

UUFGB Board of Directors

President	Susan Persons
President-Elect	John Hunger
Past-President	Bets Anderson
Secretary	Amanda Prather
Treasurer	Pete Olsen
Members at Large:	Fanny DeGesero
	Cheryl Henry
	Patrick McGuffey

Committees and Task Forces

Communications	Madeleine Baker
Landscape	Margaret Canavan
Membership	Cheryl Henry
Program/Worship	Gerry Carr
Religious Education	Neil Huddleston
Supper Circles	Judy Glaister
Social Action	Mary Hodgson

Administrative Team	B. Anderson, M. Baker, M. Canavan, J. Glaister, & C. Henry
Webmaster	Amber Zainfeld

Right Relations Covenant

We will communicate openly, honestly & respectfully. We will listen carefully with open minds & open hearts. We will assume good intentions, practice tolerance & resist the temptation to become offended. We will take responsibility for our speech, actions & feelings, & we will be sensitive to possible conflicts & willing to work toward solutions. We will consider other perspectives & will strive not for unanimity but for mutual respect. We will honor our own boundaries & the boundaries of others. We will respect & support the diversity within our congregation & work to foster a welcoming environment.

News & Coming Attractions

Member NUUs

Thinking of YoUU: Please keep in your prayers & thoughts: **Rusty McGowan**, and **John & Bev Frannea's** daughter **Andy Walker**. Our condolences to **Gerry Carr** whose mother Judy Carr died on January 14, and **Kay Schiller**, whose mother Doris Griffin died on January 26.

Message from Jodie Mitchell: I just wanted to say Hi to everybody at Galveston UU. I had to move to my family in New Caney, just north of Houston. I am staying with my Sister for awhile. I transferred to the Conroe Parole Office. I am very happy there. I do miss Galveston and wish I was a part of the rebuilding but this move is for the best. I enjoy reading the on-line Newsletter, it keeps me up to date. Please let everybody know that I miss them and my church home....I will visit sometime soon. Love you all, Take Care. (Note to members: Jodie's updated address is available on our website.)

UU Upcoming Events

Super Bowl: Fanny & Roy DeGesero are having a Super Bowl party on February 1. There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Mike Hennen is pleased to announce the second concert of the season for Galveston Island Arts Academy, on Friday evening February 6, at 7:30pm at the GIAA (27th & Avenue O). Featured artist is pianist Dr. Shannon Hesse, who will be leading a piano workshop the following day with GIAA. Call (409) 771-4438 for tickets.

Supper Circle: Madeleine Baker is hosting the February Supper Circle at her new home on Sunday, February 15 at 5 pm. Please sign up soon on the bulletin board as there is a limit of 10 persons.

Poker & Game Night: Poker at Tony DiNuzzo's Sunday February 22 at 6:30 pm. Game Night TBA.

Announcements

Call for 2009 Supper Circle Hosts: Hosts are needed for Supper Circles for the coming year. Please sign up on

the bulletin board and indicate if there is a limited number of persons that you can accommodate at your house. This is a wonderful way to enjoy delicious food and engage in interesting dialog with fellow UUs.

Recycle News: The Galveston Recycle Center is open for everything except plastic and cardboard. Randalls is accepting all plastic (look for 2 large garbage cans labeled recycle plastic.) The Texas City Recycling Center on Loop 197 is accepting everything. There is also an unattended 24-hour Houston drop-off Center at Ellington Field on Highway 3 just north of El Dorado (they take plastic and cardboard).

UU Broadcasts: The First Parish in Cambridge is the only one of the 1,000 plus UU Congregations to do nationally syndicated broadcasting. Check with your local NPR or college station to find out if Cambridge Forum is broadcast in your area. For a free subscription to webcasts and podcasts of Cambridge Forum discussions through the WGBH Forum Network, send an e-mail to camforum@earthlink.net, with "subscribe" in the subject-line.

Around UU

An Evening to Remember--UUA Presidential Candidates, International UU Women, Music and More: If you are unable to attend the full International Convocation of UU Women beginning February 26, consider this very attractive alternative. It will be *An Evening to Remember!* You can meet 40 international guests from 18 countries, have cocktails and dinner, and hear a panel discussion featuring UUA Moderator Gini Courter and UUA presidential candidates Rev. Laurel Hallman and Rev. Peter Morales. NPR correspondent Margot Adler will moderate the panel. Dr. Caren Grown will give the keynote address "Women in Poverty: Tackling the Global Issue" and Emma's Revolution will offer a folk musical finale. This unforgettable evening at the Hilton of the Americas ballroom (1600 Lamar) will be held Saturday, February 28, 5:00-10:00 PM. Tickets are \$65 and may be purchased

online at www.icuuw.com (click on registration and then choose store from the menu). If you have questions, please contact Susan Borches at smborches@yahoo.com. The evening is not restricted to UU Women -- men are welcome to attend.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay WINE COUNTRY HOLIDAY: UU's of Napa, California announce our successful Wine Country Excursion program which we have offered the past 3 years. There is so much to see and do in the Napa & Sonoma Valleys, e.g. wine education & tasting, art, history of the regions, gourmet dining, bicycling & hiking to explore the natural beauty of our hills & valleys & only an hour to San Francisco! Sites of particular interest include Jack London's home; renowned & boutique wineries; numerous fine restaurants including the Culinary Institute of America; the diRosa Art & Nature Preserve; museums & galleries; miles of bicycling & hiking trails, etc. We offer two choices: Comfortable lodging in members' homes with full breakfast (up to 3 nights), or lodging plus our renowned Wine Country Excursion 2-day tour package. In 2009 our program will run from April through October. Fees for lodging are at least 25% below market rate (and include a scrumptious breakfast!) & tours are about 50% below commercial rates. All proceeds go to our small fellowship. We have limited openings, so contact us now for details. Tom Wilson (707.254-7443) or 2wilson-s1dog@comcast.net.

Other Events

Galveston Dance Club Update: Robert Barnes teaches on Tuesday Beginning Salsa 7-8pm, 8-9pm is Tango practice time. Betty & Louis teach on Thursdays Beginning Swing 7-8pm, 8-9pm Intermediate Swing. We are also invited to the GDC Pre-Valentines dance party at Holiday Inn on the Seawall Feb 12 from 7-10pm. Remember, classes are free to members (and UUs get half-price membership).



Alcoholics Anonymous Phoenix Group meets Sunday & Wednesday evenings at 8pm. Contact Robert G. for information at 409-392-7005.

Adult Forum: meets Sundays at 9am to explore topics in religion, philosophy, history and politics. For information, contact Neil Huddleston at (409)744-2369.

Board of UUFGC meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 5:45 pm. Committee members are invited to send Committee reports or present them in person at the meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Book Club is on vacation right now. Please contact Fanny DeGesero if you have suggestions for next year's readings..

Bowlers meet first and third Wednesdays of each month to make and decorate bowls for the fall Jesse Tree fundraiser. All are welcome to participate, no experience necessary.

Comedy Defensive Driving: Joseph "Pokey" Simmons teaches his Comedy Defensive Driving class at UU, three Saturdays each month from 9-3. Cost is \$35. Contact Joseph at (409) 789-8451 to sign up.

Course in Miracles Study Group meets every Thursday at 7pm, and meets beforehand for dinner. Contact Laura Murrell for information (lauramurrell@att.net).

Dance Classes Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7pm: See page 3 for details. Questions, call Betty at 281-337-0441. See <http://www.galvestondanceclub.com>.

Gardeners meet monthly for indoor and outdoor work that is so important to keeping our Fellowship looking good & working properly. Work dates are on the calendar.

Program Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6pm, at Mosquito Café in Galveston, to plan Sunday services. For information please contact Gerry Carr. Meetings are open to all.

Poker and Game Night is monthly and held in members' homes, and is open to all. Check the calendar and weekly announcements for date and location.

Social Action Committee meets the first Sunday of each month after service and welcomes your ideas, energy and enthusiasm. Contact Mary Hodgson at 409-762-0193.

Spirit Circle Covenant Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 6pm. Contact Gerry Carr gcarr@tlc-galveston.org or leave a message at the Fellowship if you would like to be contacted by phone.

Supper Circles meet monthly. Call Judy Glaister at (409)762-8187 to schedule a supper, sign up for one, or for information.

Zen Meditation meets Sundays at 4pm as an activity of the Zen Island Fellowship. To learn more about Zen Buddhist practice, contact Cara Geary (gcara@comcast.net) or visit galvestonzen.org.

Send newsletter information to administrator@uugalveston.org or phone 409-765-8330, or leave a note at the Fellowship.

Social Action Committee **Provocative Film Series**

Quinceañera

Friday, February 6, 7 pm

This sensitive coming-of-age drama, a 2006 Sundance Film Festival award winner, tells the story of Magdalena ([Emily Rios](#)), who, on the brink of her 15th birthday, finds her comfortable existence shattered by the discovery that she's pregnant. Cast out by her parents, the once-privileged teen finds safe haven with a great-granduncle and a gay cousin ([Jesse Garcia](#)) who introduce her to a world far different from her gentrified middle-class life.

Free Admission -- bring a friend and a snack to share

The Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

FEBRUARY 2009

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																
<p>1</p> <p>9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Laura Emerson, "Leviticus"; Children/Youth Religious Education 12n - Social Action Cmte; 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5pm - UU Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7pm - Provocative Film, Quinceañera</p>	<p>7</p>																
<p>8</p> <p>9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Fanny DeGessero, "What's Love Got to do With It?"; Children/Youth Religious Education 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:45pm - Board Meets</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9am-noon - Book Sale & Workday 9am-3pm Comedy Defensive Driving</p> 																
<p>15</p> <p>9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Christina Branum-Martin, "To Dwell Together in Peace"; Children/Youth Religious Education 4pm - Zen Meditation 5pm - Supper Circle at Madeleine Baker's 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5pm - UU Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6pm - Program Cmte at Mosquito 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9am-3pm Comedy Defensive Driving</p> 																
<p>22 Potluck</p> <p>9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Gerry Carr, "Rising from the Ashes"; Children/Youth Religious Education 4pm - Zen Meditation 6:30pm - Poker at DiNuzzo's 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9am-3pm Comedy Defensive Driving</p>																
<p>Happy Birthday to:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><i>Andrea Hodgson</i></td> <td><i>2/1</i></td> <td><i>Marilyn Schultz</i></td> <td><i>2/1</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Alison Rutledge</i></td> <td><i>2/05</i></td> <td><i>Dorothy Treviño</i></td> <td><i>2/9</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Judy Glaister</i></td> <td><i>2/11</i></td> <td><i>Ilse Benard</i></td> <td><i>2/23</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Ana Rivera</i></td> <td><i>2/15</i></td> <td><i>Kay Schiller</i></td> <td><i>2/25</i></td> </tr> </table>							<i>Andrea Hodgson</i>	<i>2/1</i>	<i>Marilyn Schultz</i>	<i>2/1</i>	<i>Alison Rutledge</i>	<i>2/05</i>	<i>Dorothy Treviño</i>	<i>2/9</i>	<i>Judy Glaister</i>	<i>2/11</i>	<i>Ilse Benard</i>	<i>2/23</i>	<i>Ana Rivera</i>	<i>2/15</i>	<i>Kay Schiller</i>	<i>2/25</i>
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